

Illustration by Walter Fertig; From 'Alpine Flora of the Middle Rockies'

LOMATIUM NUTTALLII NUTTALL DESERT-PARSLEY

Nuttall Desert-parsley is an aromatic, glabrous perennial that stands 10-40 cm tall, and arising from a branched, thickened rootstock that is covered with old leaf bases. The leaves are all basal and are once or twice pinnately compound or three parted. The leaf blades are 2-15 cm long with ultimate linear divisions that are 10-45 mm long and 1-2 mm wide. The leaf petioles are expanded and sheathing at the base. Several to many small flowers are borne in flat-topped compound umbels on stout, leafless flower stems which are generally taller than the leaves. There are involucels of united or separate linear segments that subtend umbelets and often extend beyond the flowers. Flowers have 5 yellow petals and 5 stamens attached above a single two-chambered pistil with two styles. The mature fruits are flattened and narrowly oval-shaped with marginal wings and low ribs on the flat faces; they are 9-13 mm long and 3-4 mm wide. Flowering in June, fruiting by July.

Distinguished from other LOMATIUM in Montana by the combination of having glabrous herbage, leaves with relatively few ultimate segments, involucels of long narrow bracts, and yellow flowers.